

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:****Pages S3706–24****Additional Statements:****Page S3700****Amendments Submitted:****Pages S3724–59****Authorities for Committees to Meet:****Page S3759****Privileges of the Floor:****Page S3759**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—101)

**Pages S3673, S3675**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 7:59 p.m., until 2 p.m., on Monday, May 1, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3764.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### APPROPRIATIONS: IRS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, The Judiciary, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, after receiving testimony from Mark Everson, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Raymond T. Wagner, Jr., Chairman, Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board, J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, and Nina E. Olsen, National Taxpayer Advocate, Taxpayer Advocate Service, all of the Department of the Treasury.

### CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Legislative Branch resumed hearings to examine the progress of Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) construction, focusing on the installation and fabrication of stone, and the acceptance testing of the CVC's complex fire and life-safety systems, receiving testimony from Alan M. Hantman, Architect, Robert C. Hixon, Jr., Capitol Visitor Center Project Manager, Stephen Ayers, Chief Operating Officer, all of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol; and Bernard L. Ungar, Director, and Terrell Dorn, Assistant Director, both of Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office.

Hearings continue on Wednesday, May 24, 2006.

### MILITARY ACTIVITY

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing to examine operations and intelligence from Peter W. Rodman, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs; Brigadier General Carter Ham, USA, Deputy

Director for Regional Operations, J–3, and Rear Admiral David J. Dorsett, USN, Director of Intelligence, J–2, both of The Joint Staff.

### DROUGHT ISSUES

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention and Prediction concluded an oversight hearing to examine drought research, monitoring, and forecasting issues and the shortage of water, focusing on drought management in the United States, and the need to move the nation to a more risk-based management approach to lessen the vulnerability to this natural hazard, after receiving testimony from Chester J. Koblinsky, Director, Climate Program Office, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; former Wyoming Governor Jim Geringer, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Redlands, California, on behalf of the Alliance for Earth Observations; and Donald A. Wilhite, University of Nebraska National Drought Mitigation Center, Lincoln.

### WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Narcotics Affairs concluded a hearing to examine the progress of implementing the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, which will require all travelers to and from the Americas, the Caribbean, and Bermuda to have a passport or other accepted document that establishes the bearer's identity and nationality to enter or re-enter the United States, in order to strengthen border security and facilitate entry into the United States for U.S. citizens and legitimate foreign visitors, after receiving testimony from Senators Dorgan and Schumer; Representatives Reynolds and Slaughter; Paul Rosenzweig, Counselor (Policy Directorate) and Acting Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Policy Development; Frank E. Moss, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Passport Services, Bureau of Consular Affairs; Ken Oplinger, Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bellingham, Washington; Brian Sage, Northwest Angle and Islands Homeowners Association, Angle Inlet, Minnesota; and Howard A. Zemsky, Greater Buffalo Niagara Partnership, Buffalo, New York, on behalf of the Binational Tourism Alliance.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2557, to improve competition in the oil and gas industry, to strengthen antitrust enforcement with regard to industry mergers;

S. 2292, to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges; and

The nominations of Michael Ryan Barrett, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, Brian M. Cogan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Thomas M. Golden, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Timothy Anthony Junker, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa, and Patrick Carroll Smith, Sr., of Maryland, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina.

Also, Committee began markup of S. 2453, to establish procedures for the review of electronic surveillance programs; S. 2455, to provide in statute for the conduct of electronic surveillance of suspected terrorists for the purposes of protecting the American people, the Nation, and its interests from terrorist attack while ensuring that the civil liberties of United States citizens are safeguarded; and S. 2468, to provide standing for civil actions for declaratory and injunctive relief to persons who refrain from electronic communications through fear of being subject to warrantless electronic surveillance for foreign intelligence purposes, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to the call.

#### VOTING RIGHTS ACT

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee held a hearing to examine renewing the temporary provisions of the Voting Rights Act, ensuring that the right to vote continues to be protected to the full extent of Congress's constitutional authority, receiving testimony from Representatives Sensenbrenner, and Conyers.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

#### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Veterans Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Daniel L. Cooper, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits.

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#### VA RESEARCH

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs medical and prosthetic research program, focusing on funding basic science and clinical research, after receiving testimony from Jonathan B. Perlin, Under Secretary for Health, Joel Kupersmith, Chief Research and Development Officer, Richard F. Weir, Research Scientist, VA Prosthetics Research Laboratory, Jesse Brown, VA Medical Center (Chicago, Illinois), and Fred S. Wright, VA Connecticut Healthcare System (West Haven), and Dennis L. Stevens, Veterans Affairs Medical Center (Boise, Idaho), both Associate Chiefs of Staff for Research, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; John R. Feussner, Medical University of South Carolina Department of Medicine, Charleston; and John I. Kennedy, Jr., University of Alabama at Birmingham, on behalf of the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to consider pending intelligence matters.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

### Joint Meetings

#### ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

*Joint Economic Committee:* Committee concluded hearings to examine the current economic outlook, focusing on the monetary policy of the Federal Reserve, and incentives for investment activity, after receiving testimony from Ben Bernanke, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

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## House of Representatives

### Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 36 public bills; H.R. 5216–5251; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 84; H. Con. Res. 395–396; and H. Res. 784–787 were introduced.

**Pages H1915–16**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages H1917–18**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3418, to amend the Reclamation Water and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–442);

H.R. 4013, to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to provide for conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in Juab County, Utah (H. Rept. 109–443);